
LEGISLATIVE CHANGES

“ILLINOIS FIRST” Initiative

In FY 1999, the General Assembly passed Gov. George Ryan’s \$12 billion, five-year “Illinois FIRST” initiative, the largest infrastructure construction and repair program in state history. The initiative, effective July 1, 1999, adds the following amounts during fiscal years 2000-2004 for improvements to roads, bridges, airports, and rail service, and support for mass transit:

\$3.7 billion, for a total \$10.5 billion highway program;

\$1.9 billion, for a total \$4.1 billion mass transit program;

\$100 million, for a total \$207.4 million rail program, and

\$160 million, for a total \$638.6 million airport program.

DUI Law

A new act (**P.A. 90-738**) effective Jan. 1, 1999, provides stiffer penalties for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs (DUI). The law:

Increases the impoundment period for an intoxicated person’s vehicle from six to 12 hours and adds new penalties of 24-hour impoundment for a second violation and 48 hours for a third.

Allows for the seizure of a DUI offender’s vehicle if driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Extends the statutory summary driver’s license suspension period from two to three years for failure to submit to drug and alcohol testing for a second or subsequent offense.

Increases the penalties for driving under the influence with a suspended or revoked license by making the violation a Class 4 felony, a third violation as a Class 3 felony and a fourth or subsequent violation as a Class 2 felony.

Prohibits the court from granting supervision to a driver who, within the past 10 years, was convicted of driving on a revoked or suspended license or was previously granted supervision for driving with a revoked or suspended license.

Raises the reinstatement fee from \$60 to \$250 for a second or subsequent suspension.

Prevents reinstatement of a revoked driver’s license after a fourth DUI conviction.

P.A. 90-779, effective January 1, 1999:

Adds provisions to the DUI law that make it illegal to drive while under the influence of intoxicating compounds.

P.A. 91-126, effective July 16, 1999:

Imposes an additional fine of \$100 upon a DUI conviction that will be distributed to the law enforcement agency - or agencies - making the arrest to help in preventing alcohol-related criminal violence.

P.A. 91-125, effective January 1, 2000:

Requires hospitals to disclose the Blood Alcohol Concentration levels of persons involved in alcohol-related motor vehicle crashes to the Illinois State Police or local law enforcement agencies.

P.A. 91-127, effective January 1, 2000:

Allows courts to mandate the use of an ignition interlock device in conjunction with a judicial driving permit for a first-time DUI offender; and

Allows courts to require the use of the device when granting court supervision.



The “Illinois FIRST” initiative adds new funding from 2000 -2004 for statewide multi-modal transportation improvements, including rehabilitation of expressways.

The same law makes it illegal to:

Blow into the device or start a motor vehicle with the device for a person whose driving privilege is restricted;

Tamper with the device; or

Lease, rent or lend a vehicle without a device to a person required to use the device.

Violating any one of these offenses is punishable by no more than six months in prison or a fine of not more than \$5,000, or both.

Motorcycle Safety Training

A new law (**P.A. 90-622**) increases the motorcycle driver's license fee from \$10 to \$15, with the additional \$5 being deposited in the Cycle Rider Safety Training Fund. The additional revenues allow IDOT to meet the growing demand for classes by making larger grants to the four universities, which are used as training facilities, to replace aging equipment and offer more training classes.

Round-trip Permit Law

A new law (**P.A. 90-676**) effective July 31, 1998, allows one permit instead of two for vehicles, such as cranes, that exceed legal weight restrictions. The law reduces paperwork, increases productivity and cuts costs for the state and heavy equipment users.

Truck Emissions Law

Diesel trucks larger than 16,000 pounds that are registered in the Chicago and the East St. Louis metropolitan areas will be required to undergo annual emissions tests at existing truck safety stations certified by IDOT. Under the new law (**P.A. 91-254**), heavily polluting trucks will have to be fixed following inspections beginning in July 2000.

